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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

NORTHEAST REPORTS RISE IN PURCHASING POWER,  
INCREASED INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENTLAND REFORM RAISES PEASANT PURCHASING POWER -- Hong Kong Ta Kung Pao,  
22 May 50

Mukden, 21 May (Hsin-hua) -- The result of land reform in the Northeast has been a considerable rise in the purchasing power of the farmers of the area with a consequent benefit to the industry and commerce of the cities. During 1949, the purchasing power of Northeast farmers was the equivalent of 3,340,000 tons of kaoliang. It is estimated that during 1950 it will be the equivalent of 5,660,000 tons.

In the older liberated areas, such as Sungkiang and Heilungkiang provinces, 50 to 65 percent of the peasants have experienced a rise in their standard of living since the land reform was carried out. In the newer areas, such as Liaotung, approximately 30 percent have already experienced an improvement. The improvement is evidenced by the increasing demand for better quality and greater variety of goods, particularly cloth. Whereas they were formerly satisfied with 8½-chin cloth [8½ chin to the bolt] they are now demanding 10½-chin white cloth and also printed goods. During the Japanese occupation, each person did well to average 5 feet of cloth a year. This year the demand will be near 30 feet per person. Both the amount of surplus grain available to the farmers for sale and the income from supplementary occupations is increasing.

EMPLOYMENT RISES DURING FIRST QUARTER -- Hong Kong Ta Kung Pao, 22 May 50

Mukden, 20 May (Hsin-hua) -- More than 100,000 men have taken employment in the industries and mines of the Northeast during the first quarter of 1950. The Pen-hsi-hu mines employed 1,890 new technicians and 8,190 laborers during that period. The technicians were gathered from all over the country. The An-shan steel works added 9,900 new workmen. There is still a great shortage of skilled construction workers in a number of lines. Hawkers, jinriksha pullers, and other itinerant and self-employed persons have practically disappeared from the scene, having been absorbed into various regular industries.

- 1 -

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During 1949, 240,000 persons were employed as new workers in the textile industries of the Northeast. Many of these have already become highly efficient in the industry.

PAPER MILL CONTRACTS FOR POWER -- Mukden Tung-pei Jih-pao, 21 Mar 50

Mukden -- To insure a safe and reliable supply of electric power, the An-tung Paper Mill and the An-tung Electric Power Company have entered into a contract with mutual rights and responsibilities. The paper mill complained that previously when no contract was in force, an interruption of one minute in the supply of current caused a loss in production, of 3 tons of paper. On the other hand, the power company complained that the paper mill frequently added new machines without the permission of or inspection of installations by the former, with the result that due to faulty insulation or unsuitable safety devices, fuses frequently were blown out, thus adversely affecting other consumers.

In the new contract, agreement was reached on all points having a bearing on current supply, technical installations, inspection, and adjustment of mutual liability in case of trouble.

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- 2 -

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